

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year, FOUR CENTS per copy. Annual subscription price, \$14.

VOLUME XXXII, No. 28

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome St. — ALABAMA, THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—GEMINI, THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.

DOWRY'S HALL, 808 Broadway.—PROFESSOR HARTZ WILL PERFORM HIS "MAGIC OF THE AIR" IN THE AIR—THE INDIAN BASKET TRICK.

RICHINGS' ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY, Olympic Theatre, Broadway.—THE ROSE OF CASTILE.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 535 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.—IN THREE ACTS, DANCING, SINGING, AND ALL THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENTS.—MIRACLES OF THE EAST.—THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth Street.—GRACEY & CURRY'S MINSTRELS.—ENTERTAINING MINSTRELS, BALLADS, BURLESQUES, &c.—MIRACLES OF THE EAST.—THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 79 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THREE ACTS, DANCING, SINGING, AND ALL THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENTS.—MIRACLES OF THE EAST.—THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOYAGE.—NEGO MISTERY.—BALLET D'ENTERTAINMENT.—TONY PASTOR'S TOUR AROUND THE WORLD.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broadway.—IN A VARIETY OF LIGHT AND LACERABLE ENTERTAINMENTS, COMEDY, BALLET, &c. THE FENIAN'S OATH, OR THE IDIOT OF ARLINGTON.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—PATRIOT—MIL AND MRS. WHITE.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, BALLADS AND BURLESQUES.—A HURRAH TRIP AROUND THE WORLD.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—THE NEW MONDAY POPULAR CONCERT.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Eighth Street.—DR. HERRARD'S ILLUSTRATED LECTURES ON HEALTH.

CLINTON HALL, Astor Place.—HONORABLE LECTURE BY MR. INGERSOLL LOCKWOOD.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—HEAD AND RIGHT EAR OF PROCT.—THE WASHINGTON TRIP.—WONDERS IN NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ART. LECTURES DAILY, OPEN FROM 8 A. M. TO 12 P. M.

New York, Monday, January 28, 1867.

THE NEWS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By mail from Europe we have advices dated to the 17th of January, in detail of our cable dispatches. The main points of the reports were published in the Herald yesterday morning.

The Excise law was again rigorously enforced yesterday, and the Sabbath passed off quietly and soberly, there being but few arrests for violations of the law either in selling liquor or using it too freely.

A meeting of influential German citizens was held at Cooper Institute last night in favor of a strict enforcement of the law. Resolutions appropriate to the purpose were adopted, and speeches were made by Professor Schaff and Dr. Winkler.

Captain Tremble, formerly an officer of an Illinois regiment, engaged in planting in Bowie county, Texas, was recently shot and wounded by citizens of that county. He went to New Orleans for assistance and returned with twenty cavalry to aid his wife and child driven from home and the negroes who had been working for him manacled and driven through the streets.

The report of the Canadian Minister of Customs is published in synopsis in our columns this morning. He recommends that American vessels be refused the privilege of passing through the Welland Canal for a few months. By doing this, he says, "we will bring the Americans to reason."

Orders have been issued for the removal of Lynch, McMahon and the other condemned Fenians to Kingston Penitentiary.

Irvin A. Denon, formerly master at arms on the United States gunboat Cayuga, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head yesterday in the back yard of a boarding house, No. 60 Main street, Brooklyn. Depression consequent on the death of his wife and loss of employment since his discharge from the navy was the cause of the rash act.

The steamer R. R. Cuyler, the fastest propeller in the merchant marine of this country, was sold Saturday to the Colombian government. She is being equipped as a war vessel, and is receiving a battery on board at the foot of Fifth street, East river.

Advises from the Plains state that the Indians are moving southward in large numbers. Old Indian fighters say that this means war, and that the soldiers will be evaded by the redskins, who are well posted on their movements.

It appears that Head Centre Stephens has not yet sailed for Europe.

Our Washington correspondent says that a bill has been framed for introduction in the House of Representatives providing for the appointment of General Grant to be acting President in case of the impeachment or removal of President Johnson.

Six men were drowned at St. Charles, Missouri, while trying to cross the river in an open boat, the ice crushing the boat like an eggshell.

Ex-Governor Allen, of Louisiana, was buried in New Orleans yesterday, his remains being followed to the tomb by a large procession of citizens.

The Baltimore harbor was opened yesterday by private enterprise, and the fleet that has been ice-bound for the last week will probably sail to-day, the channel easily permitting of the passage of vessels.

The revenue cutter Massachusetts was burned at Baltimore yesterday.

The Palisado Chemical Works, consisting of three large buildings at Locust Point, near Baltimore, were burned down yesterday. Three thousand carboys of sulphuric acid and thirty tons of sulphur were also destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$60,000. One of the proprietors of the establishment died on Saturday.

A passenger train on the Hudson River Railroad ran off the track yesterday near Hyde Park, and although all the passenger cars, including a sleeping car, were thrown off, nobody was hurt.

The winner of the Crosby Opera House sold out to Mr. Crosby, the former proprietor, on Saturday for \$200,000. The balances sheet of the proprietors of the old enterprise shows a total profit of \$650,000 on the undertaking.

The steamship General Mesde, Captain Sampson, from New York for New Orleans, fell in with the brig G. W. Barber, Captain Allen, from Wilmington, N. C., bound to New York, which had struck on Cape Lookout Shoals, lost her rudder and was in a leaky condition, and towed her to Beaufort, N. C., bar.

The brig Shooting Star, from New York to Aspinwall, was abandoned at sea on the 12th inst. All the crew were taken off.

The Mayor of Galveston telegraphed to General Sheridan asking him to forward the order of General Griffin refusing to allow the trial of the rebel General Johnston with civildemonstrations, but General Sheridan declined very sharply to grant the request.

Official advices received by the Mexican Consul at San Francisco contain information of the capture of Ortega, Gonzalez and Hatan by the Governor of Zacatecas. Juarez expected to be in the city of Mexico in March.

The Rev. Charles B. Smyth lectured at Argus Hall, on Broadway, yesterday, on "The Times We Live In, or the Vicissitudes of Life." The Rev. Dr. Littlejohn repeated his sermon on the "Demoralizing Literature of the Day," and the Rev. J. T. Becker delivered his lecture in "The Duties of Catholics in the Present Moment in the Great Republic." Various societies and boards held their regular meetings.

Rev. Joel Lindsey, the preacher who whipped his child to death in Orleans county last summer, has been convicted of manslaughter in the second degree. A warrant was made last night on the gambling house No. 702 Broadway, and John C. Homan, said to be the proprietor, was arrested, besides several others.

Southern Restoration—Curious Array of Disturbing Forces.

Wendell Phillips, in the State House at Boston the other day, devoted himself to an argument against the ratification of the pending constitutional amendment by Massachusetts, on the ground that while its adoption will be binding on the North it will be practically a dead letter in the South. The third section, disfranchising certain classes of rebels, he holds, cannot be executed in the South. The only remedy, he contends, is to put seven hundred thousand negro votes into the scale. He is in favor of disfranchising prominent rebels, but if he can give the negro the ballot he will be willing to trust Wade Hampton. He says nothing of fixing in the constitution, as this amendment proposes, the binding obligations of the national debt and the repudiation for evermore, as utterly illegal, null and void, of all rebel debts and all claims for emancipated slaves, and he overlooks the condition which requires the concession of the suffrage to the blacks by the several States, in order to count them in the popular enumeration for Representatives to Congress. In truth, from certain declarations of Phillips hereafter, he is ready for the alternative of universal repudiation, if he cannot obtain universal negro suffrage, as the all-healing panacea of Southern restoration.

All this means that Phillips is opposed to any scheme which promises a speedy settlement of this vexed question. He has his own theory of the advantages to be gained by delay. He has his own visionary projects of reconstruction, which can only be reached by reducing the country to chaos and then in beginning anew. There are various other leaders and factionists and fanatics who are driving for the same point of departure, although by different roads. The leaders of the Northern democracy are opposed to the pending amendment, because they think that in staving off this settlement "something will turn up" to bring them, in conjunction with the South, again into power. The ruling old pro-slavery class of the South are opposed to the amendment because they entertain similar expectations. President Johnson himself may be placed in the same category. Greeley, according to his last pronouncements on the subject, is with Phillips as to the infallible specific of universal negro suffrage, but shrinks with fear and trembling from President Johnson's impeachment, which Phillips holds to be the first indispensable step to "liberty, equality and fraternity."

Such are the disturbing forces operating against the pending amendment—the Northern abolition fanatics of the school of Wendell Phillips, the weak-kneed reformers represented by Greeley, the old hide-bound Northern democratic leaders, the old ruling class of the rebel States, President Johnson and the hold-over Dred Scott expounders of the Supreme Court. These disturbing elements, in many things conflicting and arising out of different objects, are all working together for delay in the settlement of our existing troubles. Phillips and Greeley desire to sacrifice the amendment in order to secure universal negro suffrage; Vallandigham and the Seymours, Wade Hampton and all the old Southern political managers still remaining on hand, together with the administration, are laboring to defeat the amendment because, if adopted, it will inaugurate a new dispensation and an entirely new organization of parties, and because under President Johnson and the Supreme Court the hope is cherished of still another reign of the Bourbons. State rights, slavery and all. Thus it is that the main body of the dominant party in Congress is confronted on every side by hostile factions, and thus among other dangers this dominant party is threatened with dissensions and divisions which encourage all these opposing forces to hold their ground.

How is Congress to baffle and overthrow all these opposing combinations? Not by delay nor masterly inactivity; for that is their game. Not by hedging and dithering to the end of President Johnson's term of office; for that is his policy and theirs, to bring the rebel States, as they stand, into Congress and the next Presidential election, under a decree from the Supreme Court. There remains to Congress, then, only the policy of pushing through the amendment as the basis of Southern restoration; and as it is now made manifest that the amendment is mainly blocked by President Johnson, his impeachment and removal will become the first and the main question with the new Congress which meets in March. Whatever else Congress may deem necessary in the way of reconstruction, the securities of this amendment must be fixed in the constitution. Otherwise, with Southern restoration a repudiation party will at once be developed North and South. It is hinted that Chief Justice Chase and Greeley favor a compromise on negro suffrage with the President; we know that Phillips goes for his impeachment to secure negro suffrage; but there can be no security for anything short of the adoption of this amendment. How the republicans now stand in the two houses upon this question we cannot tell, but with the meeting of the new Congress fresh from the people we expect that, mainly in behalf of this pending amendment as the great issue of the recent elections, the impeachment will be pushed to the removal of President Johnson.

Upon this line there will be force and consistency in the impeachment; but in diverging to negro suffrage as the only issue to be settled, as the only security needed for the future, Wendell Phillips, as of old, is again playing into the hands of Wade Hampton, and Greeley is strengthening the rejected policy of President Johnson. Upon the basis of the amendment the party in power will be supported by the North even to the removal of the present Executive and a reconstruction of the Supreme Court. Then, with the settlement completed and with the South restored, we shall have a reconstruction of parties involving new issues, new men and new combinations of sections and factions and whites and blacks. Let Congress, on the other hand, try the substitute of negro suffrage as presented by Phillips and Greeley, and it will prove to the republicans the admission of the wooden horse within the walls of Troy and a restoration of the Bourbons. Nay, more, we must fix the amendment in the constitution or prepare for the new party and the chase of universal repudiation, as the price which Wade Hampton is ready, no doubt, to exact, and which Wendell Phillips is ready, we conclude, to pay for universal negro suffrage.

WHISKEY CONSPIRACY.—A motion was made by Mr. Darling in Congress on Saturday requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to sus-

pend the sales of confiscated whiskey unless the price offered be equal to the tax on the article. This is a very good resolution, and is, no doubt, intended to restrain certain operations of government officials and others in the purchase of confiscated liquor; but Mr. Darling should have gone a little further by suspending the sales in cases where the market price was not realized. This, we opine, would effectually cure the evil intended to be removed by his motion.

Mr. Morrill on Our National Finances.

From the position Mr. Morrill occupies in Congress, as taking a leading part in all matters relating to the national finances, currency, revenue and the tariff, and because he really brings a great deal of knowledge to bear upon them, his speech delivered last Thursday is worthy of special notice. This speech was evidently carefully prepared, but we are left much in the same doubt as to his precise meaning or what he proposes to do as we are with regard to the speeches of one of our city members. We do not know exactly where he stands. He multiplies words in generalizations and is not sufficiently clear and explicit. He is in favor of a resumption of specie payments by contracting the legal tender currency, and yet he is "persuaded that we shall not reach the goal of resumption any earlier than the most devoted partisan of an exclusive paper money system would wish." While the politics of the Secretary of the Treasury is distasteful to him, he approves of his financial policy. In fact, Mr. McCulloch's views regarding contraction and sustaining the national banks are endorsed by Mr. Morrill. But neither he nor the Secretary has an idea different from those which have been reiterated a thousand times by the bullionists of Great Britain and this country. The successive revisions which England passed through after the close of the long war with the first Napoleon, in consequence of adopting the resumption theories of the bullionists, afford no lesson to them. The periodical revisions that have occurred every few years since in that country, even in specie paying times, does not prevent them from pointing to the course followed there as the best guide to us. The fearful pauperism that pervades the whole kingdom, side by side with incalculable wealth and unequalled production, which can only be the result of an unsound financial and monetary system, gives no instruction to these men of one idea. They do not see that the time has come when this new and great country ought to abandon theories which have proved so pernicious and that we should have a system of finance and currency adapted to our own circumstances. The whole of Mr. Morrill's argument, as well as the policy of Mr. McCulloch, is based upon British ideas and practices, and yet we see what dreadful consequences have followed the application of those in England.

The great point Mr. Morrill endeavors to make is that our circulating medium, which is the currency, is much too large; that about a third of it would be sufficient, and that it should be all withdrawn except the three hundred millions of national bank notes. That is the amount and kind of currency only he would give us. To sustain his argument he refers to the circulation in England in 1844 and 1865, and to our own before the war, each of which he states was less than three hundred millions. We believe he underestimates the amount, if we reckon both the paper and coin in circulation at the same time. We will not cavil about that, however. The question is not what England has or what we had before the war, but what is the amount required under our present circumstances for the safe and healthful operations of trade and development of the country. We are passing through an extraordinary a revolution in financial matters as in political. We think, too, that the changes this country is destined to make in the former will exercise, in time, as great an influence in Europe as it is now exercising upon the political ideas of that part of the world. The whole tendency of the financial and monetary system of England, and, indeed, of nearly all Europe, is in favor of the rich and to reduce the producing classes to the lowest point of existence. A currency contracted too much is undoubtedly the chief cause of this state of things.

Mr. Morrill refers to Parliamentary reports and other authorities to show that only about three per cent of the circulating medium, or what is called currency or money, has been used in ordinary mercantile transactions, or to use his own words, "to liquidate payments in modern trading." According to this statement ninety-seven per cent of all business is done through the medium of the banks and rich individuals and through credit. He argues, consequently, that only a very restricted currency is required. Does this not rather prove that a more copious currency is necessary to protect the mass of small traders from the power and exactions of the banks and the rich? With a large amount of circulating medium, and, therefore, with an easy money market, the banks are not able to hold the trading community so much at their mercy and to absorb the profits of trade to such an extent; but are not the mass of the people thereby benefited? Of course there is a limit beyond which it would not be healthful or safe to expand; but we maintain that a currency too restricted only makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. This would be the case especially under our present circumstances if the currency could be contracted to a specie basis. The property of those who hold United States securities would be increased over thirty per cent, while the property of all others would be reduced in the same proportion. All those who owe anything would find that their debts would be heavier and their means of payment much less. Then we should witness revulsions, bankruptcies and general distress such as the people of England experienced in their efforts to force specie payments after the wars with the first Napoleon.

Mr. Morrill predicts, as other resumption theorists predict, that all sorts of evil will come upon us if we do not contract the currency and return to specie payments. This is a mere assumption, without the least foundation in our own experience or in the history of other countries. Contraction produces commercial and financial revulsion, by not maintaining a steady, copious currency. We have not suffered and are not suffering from a redundancy. On the contrary, the country was never more healthfully prosperous, apart from the burdens the war has imposed upon us. There has been some over-trading, and this, with the season of the year, may have caused

a temporary lull in business; but this occurs also in specie-paying times, and is not caused by our paper money. The development of our manufactures, mines, agriculture and all kinds of business within the last few years, shows the effect of an abundant circulating medium and easy money market. The true policy is to let well alone and not meddle injudiciously with the currency.

The national bank system is a favorite one with Mr. Morrill, as with all the other advocates of contraction and resumption. He thinks the saving of twenty-four millions a year to the Treasury in interest on the debt, by substituting legal tenders for national bank notes, is a trifling compared with the blessings the banks are to the country. We differ with him. The national banks constitute a great and dangerous moneyed monopoly which will absorb the profits of industry and exercise a powerful influence over the politics of the country. The government has given them enormous privileges without any consideration in return. They are, in fact, a fraud upon the country and threaten it with great evils. Nor is the twenty-four millions a year which is given to them a trifle. That amount at compound interest would pay off the national debt in less than forty years. It is a greater amount than the whole revenue or expenditure of the government a few years ago. Mr. Morrill has a great deal to learn about financial matters. We hope Congress may not be guided by his theories and erroneous views.

Our Indian Tribes—Return in the Indian Bureau.

The proposition now before Congress to transfer the management of the Indian tribes from the bureau under the Interior Department to the War Department, is one which we think is not only calculated to facilitate the operations of the bureau, but will relieve the country in a great measure from the odium attached to measures hitherto adopted in our dealings with the aboriginal races. There is no doubt that a great deal of corruption, unnecessary violence and inhumanity has been associated with the conduct of Indian affairs. Much of the troubles on our frontier have originated with agents and others having a personal interest in perpetuating distrust, quarrels and massacres among the tribes. By taking this business out of the hands of civil agents and placing the control of the Indian tribes in those of military officers, we will remove the opportunity for corruption, which has involved the government in vast expense and retarded civilization in the Territories. The officers of the army, acting by the orders and discipline of the War Department, are held under strict military jurisdiction, and they are not so liable to engage in corrupt practices as civilians, who are responsible to a civil department of the government. Again, the officers of our army, from their education and habits, are not so prone to corruption and avarice as the politicians who usually fill the offices of Indian agents, according to the present arrangement. When any hostilities occur on the frontier the military power has to be called in to suppress them, and the authority of the War Department is immediately required. Why not, then, invest the whole management of Indian affairs in this department? At the present moment large bodies of troops are being sent to the Territories to confront the hostile Indians. General Grant and General Sherman, in their reports on affairs in the West, have recognized the wisdom of this distribution of authority to the War Department, which is perhaps an additional reason why the recommendation of the Military Committee should be adopted by Congress. Our Indian affairs have been miserably managed, and some reform is absolutely needed.

The Latest Phase of the Eastern Question.

The telegraphic news of yesterday relating to the affairs of the East is specially interesting. The Cretan war is said to be ended, the volunteers having returned to Greece. Information of a similar nature has, on more than one occasion already, been contradicted by subsequent telegrams. It will not in the least surprise us if our telegram of yesterday may be a similar fate. It is notorious that for some time past Austria, much to the annoyance of Prussia and Russia, especially the latter, has been concentrating her forces in Galicia, and that the Poles in that province, rightly or wrongly, are of opinion that Austria favors the resurrection of Polish nationality. It does not, therefore, surprise us to learn that Prussia has demanded from Austria an explanation of her conduct. The most important item of intelligence is that the French, Russian and Prussian governments have agreed to negotiate with the Porte a settlement of the affairs of the East. What does this mean? Negotiate is a term of large significance. Has the Sultan made up his mind to barter away his disaffected provinces? Have the Powers above mentioned agreed as to their share of the spoil and the terms on which they are disposed to secure it? What of Austria? What of Italy? Above all, what of England? Are they all three to be left out in the cold? Is the territory of the Sultan to be rearranged or partitioned by and in the interests of Russia, Prussia and France alone? Such we may rest assured is not to be the case. Austria, weak as she is, will not stand passively by while the affairs of the East are being settled. She is not yet so completely exhausted as tamely to submit to such humiliation. She is too near a neighbor and too deeply interested not to summon up her remaining strength—a strength which her past history shows is by no means easily exhausted, and demands that her voice be heard. Italy is but little interested and may well be left aside. But England—it is for a moment to be imagined that she will remain either indifferent or inactive while the settlement of this long vexed and deeply important question is being arranged by others? Certainly not. Anxious as she is for peace and unwilling to embroil herself in continental war, the interests which she has at stake are too numerous and too weighty to admit of such a course.

What, then, is the explanation of the present aspect of things? It is manifest that there has been correspondence between the Porte and the great protecting Powers in regard to the affairs of the East, and especially in regard to the conduct of the Greeks of the kingdom. The Sultan is highly indignant at the conduct of the Greek government. Prior to the open declaration of war against that government he recently notified his intention to the great Powers. The telegrams of yesterday inform us of the result of that notification. France, Russia and Prussia have responded, and they are prepared to act in harmony with the government of the Sultan in effecting some arrangement. England, it is evident, had not yet replied. Her reply, however, may be hourly expected. Italy, in all likelihood, was not consulted. Whether Austria has been wilfully ignored we have yet to learn. The Eastern question thus enters upon an entirely new phase of its existence. It is now fairly European in its dimensions. The little cloud in the East which we have been watching now covers the entire Western continent. The spark threatens to become a conflagration. Diplomacy may yet prevent it. We shall see.

of the result of that notification. France, Russia and Prussia have responded, and they are prepared to act in harmony with the government of the Sultan in effecting some arrangement. England, it is evident, had not yet replied. Her reply, however, may be hourly expected. Italy, in all likelihood, was not consulted. Whether Austria has been wilfully ignored we have yet to learn. The Eastern question thus enters upon an entirely new phase of its existence. It is now fairly European in its dimensions. The little cloud in the East which we have been watching now covers the entire Western continent. The spark threatens to become a conflagration. Diplomacy may yet prevent it. We shall see.

Tenement Houses and Internal Improvements.

The attention of the Legislature has been drawn to the question of improvement in the tenement house system of this city, and we have a right to expect that it will receive due consideration. It is a subject which affects not only the inhabitants of these dens of discomfort, danger and disease, but, as a sanitary question, enters largely into the interests of all classes of the community. There is really no substantial reason why New York should be so far behind the large cities of Europe in providing wholesome dwellings for the working classes. We have fewer poor to take care of than Paris or London. The earnings of our laboring population are on an average greater than the same class in Europe, yet in many portions of this city we find them compelled to live in tenements more wretched than any known in the capitals of the Old World. In London the average number of people dwelling in one house is about twelve; in New York it is twenty-two. If our property owners who have frequent opportunities to visit London and Paris would only devote a little of their time while on their travels to observation of the dwellings where people of moderate means are domiciliated, they might learn a lesson which would be profitable to themselves. If, instead of constructing buildings where a large portion of their inhabitants live under ground, in damp cellars, they would build houses four and five stories high, with ample provision for light and ventilation by means, say, of a skylight conducting light and air through the centre of the building, and furnished with easy modes of ingress and egress by stone or iron staircases, a large degree of comfort could be ensured to the occupants, the danger of infectious diseases would be avoided and the community would be spared those horrible recitals of death by fire and suffocation which almost daily comprise part of our newspaper reading.

It is true that we are somewhat confined for room on Manhattan Island and can hardly accommodate our fast growing population; but there are many ways by which to remedy this evil. One of them is to build higher tenements in the lower part of the city, with the accommodations and safeguards we have suggested. Another is to make the thousands of acres of waste land which surround the city and its suburbs available by some system of drainage which will give us, for building, agricultural and other purposes, a vast area now lying idle because of the tidal flow, which leaves them wholly unprofitable, and as easily reclaimable by the aid of a little enterprise and capital as Holland was reclaimed from the sea, and portions of England were converted from worthless swamps into fruitful farms and gardens.

There is no necessity for the miseries endured in cellars and filthy tenements, the dangers to human life, the germs of contagious disease which the cramped and crowded condition of the city entails upon us, while we have ample space around us requiring only the application of a little energy and capital to render it available for useful purposes and make it afford us relief in the most effectual way. The Legislature, while it is employed upon providing a remedy for the evils of the tenement house system, might profitably divert its attention to these points.

The Emperor Napoleon and His Proposed Reforms.

When the recent reform decree of Napoleon was promulgated we were told that it was received with great satisfaction by the French people. Now the cable informs us that France is very generally expressing its disgust at it. Between these opposite assertions a middle term will not hit the truth. Considerable as are the concessions embraced in the Emperor's decree, it was not to be expected that they would give satisfaction to all parties. Nothing that he could do, for example, short of abolition would extort the approbation of the red republicans. The clause specially leveled against their representatives in the Legislature—that discontinuing the address from the Chambers in reply to the speech from the throne—has, as was to be expected, excited their furious indignation. Such men as Jules Favre and Eugene Pelletan are cut off by it from all chance of venting their inflammatory doctrines in public. To statesmen of moderate constitutional opinions, like Thiers, the restriction is not of so much importance. They will find abundant opportunities through the decree of making up for this curtailment of the privilege which they have hitherto enjoyed at the opening of the session.

As regards the bulk of the French people, we do not believe that any such feeling as that described in yesterday's telegrams exists. They are fully aware that if the Emperor were to concede to suddenly the reforms demanded of him they would at once lead to revolution. The red republicans are not to be trusted with such opportunities as would be thus placed in their hands. Between the dangers to which they must lead and the disappointment of being compelled to wait some time longer for more comprehensive measures, the people prefer the latter. They have enjoyed under the political system of the present Emperor a larger amount of material happiness and a greater sense of security than they have ever before possessed. Wary of revolutions, they are not willing to hazard this condition of well-being for the doubtful future opened up to them by the theories of the red republicans.

health will not permit him to retrieve them. He is too sagacious to suppose that he can impart permanency to the system of government which he has initiated. It would require a ruler of equal ability and daring to maintain it after his death against the assaults to which it will be exposed, not merely by domestic conspiracies, but by foreign combinations. What chance would a feeble woman and an inexperienced boy have of contending against such dangers? None. And no one, we believe, appreciates the fact more keenly than the Emperor. Therefore it is that while there is yet time he is beginning to experiment in the way of political concessions. He, no doubt, thinks that by reverting again to constitutional forms there may be a chance of perpetuating a dynasty which has hitherto only looked to individual energy and success for its hold on the popular affections. He must not be expected, however, to move too fast in this direction. It requires infinitely more judgment and boldness to relax the restraints of a despotic system like his than to build it up anew from its foundations.

AMENITIES OF OUR LEGISLATIVE BODIES.—The floor of the House of Representatives was the scene of another violation of decorum on Saturday, when language wholly unjustifiable was indulged in by Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, and Mr. Hunter, of New York. The former gentleman, in charging members of the House with being rebels and conspirators because their political views differed from his own, transgressed all parliamentary law, but Mr. Hunter, in using the term "a base lie," was not less reprehensible. We are glad to see that Mr. Speaker Colfax for once put a stop to this disorderly conduct. He was not in the chair when the controversy commenced, but he immediately hastened to his place and called the unruly gentlemen to order. While such bad examples are furnished by the highest legislative body in the land we cannot be surprised to find scenes of violence occurring in the State legislatures, such as the recent collision between two members of the Virginia Assembly, one of whom was knocked down on the floor of the chamber. Parliamentary manners, like the fashions, are supposed to radiate from the centre of civilization and are copied in lesser places. It thus behooves Congress to set a better example of legislative amenities to the States.

APPROACHING ELECTIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—MOVEMENT OF THE BLACKS.—In advance of the coming Mayoralty election in Georgetown the blacks of that city held a meeting and adopted a platform embracing perfect equality between whites and blacks, which they succeeded in getting a candidate to accept. This action may be regarded as the first practical development of the impartial suffrage system, and will probably be followed up at the election in Washington. The gist of the principles comprised in the Georgetown platform are contained in the following questions:—

Will you, if elected, to execute the laws and ordinances of the city as to admit of no distinction on account of color, as required by the act of Congress known as the Civil Rights bill?

Will you, when laborers and mechanics are to be employed by the corporation, to distribute the labor as to give employment to whites and blacks alike?

This may be considered as opening the ball on the part of the blacks, and is significant as indicating the probable shape which impartial suffrage would take elsewhere, as well as in the District of Columbia.

THE WHISKEY FRAUDS.—ANOTHER LEAK STOPPED.—Among the ingenious devices resorted to by whiskey distillers to cheat the revenue was that of manufacturing the article under the name and semblance of burning fluid. This was done by adding to the whiskey a small proportion of turpentine, which, after the article passed inspection, was extracted or entirely neutralized by a chemical agent. As burning fluid is exempted from duty the manufacturers managed in this way to defraud the government of the tax on a large amount of whiskey. To put an end to such frauds a bill has been introduced in Congress by Senator Fessenden which repeals so much of the act of June 30, 1864, as relates to alcohol and burning fluid, and which subjects to taxation all products of distillation, by whatever name known, which contain distilled spirits or alcohol. The bill has passed both houses and now only awaits the President's signature to become law. If Congress would follow up this very proper amendment by another, reducing the tax itself to a point which would remove the inducement to illicit distillation, it would be better for the interests of the revenue as well as for those of public morals.

MUSICAL.

Never before since the opening of Stewey Hall was such an audience congregated as at the twenty-second Sunday Concert last night. The smaller matinee hall had to be thrown open to accommodate the crowds that poured in from an early hour, and at the opening concert—Schumann's Bride of Messina—there were nearly thirty-two hundred people assembled in the spacious metropolitan hall. The programme comprised selections from Beethoven, Schumann, Ernst, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Lobe, Vieuxtemps, Handel, Wollenhaupt and Raff, and was rendered by the principal artists of the former Italian troupe. "Hear ye, Israel!" was splendidly sung, and the audience was frequently enraptured by Mr. Harrison's enterprise in giving first class concerts as so far beyond his usual success.

A concert was given last evening at St. Ann's church at which Misses Geertz, Miss Wells, Mr. Collier and other artists assisted. Mr. Louis Dautner, organist of the church, conducted on the occasion. The programme consisted of the following selections from the Italian school, and was in general satisfactory. Madame Geertz's rich, telling, dramatic voice appeared to great advantage in an O. Schumann's song of Don Quixote's works, which she sang with Mr. Collier. Miss Wells also sang admirably in La Fida, by Benedetti.

OPENING OF THE BALTIMORE HARBOR.—SAILING OF THE ICE-BOUND FLEETS.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 27, 1867. The harbor was opened to-day by a large force of workmen, with axes, aided by the city tubs and balloons. The work was pushed through by private enterprise.

The steamships Falcon, for Charleston, and Patapago, for New York, sailed out, and the United States transport Comopolitan, from Charleston, came up through the channel. A large fleet will probably depart to-morrow, and a number of ice-bound vessels will sail.

THE BRIG SHOOTING STAR ABANDONED AT SEA.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 27, 1867. The brig Shooting Star, Captain Allen, from New York on the 12th inst., for Aspinwall, encountered a terrible gale on the 13th, and it was found necessary to cut away her masts. On the morning of the 17th she was abandoned, her officers and crew being taken off by the British brig Albatross, and landed at Newport to-day.

THE INDIAN TROUBLES.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27, 1867. Advice from the plains and mountains report the great body of the Indians moving southward. Old Indian fighters say this means war, that the Indians have a knowledge of the troops which are being sent out, and so they are moving southward to open the way in that less protected region, but that if the troops are sent after them, they will give them the slip and dash north again, and spread murder and devastation upon the region thus uncovered.

THE INDIAN DELEGATION AT ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27, 1867. The Indian delegation from Kansas arrived here to-day and will leave for Washington on the Terra Haute train to-morrow.